

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277  
Katsumi OKAMURA, et al. : Confirmation Number: 6234  
Application No.: 10/562,485 : Group Art Unit: 1794  
Filed: December 27, 2005 : Examiner: TURNER, ARCHENE A  
For: SURFACE-COATED HIGH HARDNESS MATERIAL FOR TOOL

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2008, wherein a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set to expire on December 29, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.